

AI - VII - A - 031

African Methodist Episcopal Church  
Frostburg

1881

The African Methodist Episcopal Church was founded in 1845 by Black Protestants who lived in the Northwest portion of Frostburg. Originally the church was located on Ormand Street and was known as Hall's Chapel. In 1881 it was rebuilt on its present site at a cost of about \$800. The structure has been remodeled three times. At present it is one story and one bay wide, of frame construction covered in both weatherboard and novelty siding. The windows in the church feature double hung, wooden sash frames which have been paneled to form lancet windows.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

0103834608

AI-VII-A-031

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

African Methodist Episcopal Church

AND/OR COMMON

Dickerson AME Church

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

148 West Mechanic Street

CITY, TOWN

Frostburg

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sixth

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Allegany

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT  
☒ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC  
☒ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH  
**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**  
☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
☒ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM  
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK  
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☒ RELIGIOUS  
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Dickerson AME Church

Telephone #: None

STREET &amp; NUMBER

148 West Mechanic Street

CITY, TOWN

Frostburg

☒ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21532

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Allegany County Courthouse

Liber #: 24

Folio #: 58

STREET &amp; NUMBER

30 Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION****CONDITION**☐ EXCELLENT☒ GOOD☐ FAIR☐ DETERIORATED☐ RUINS☐ UNEXPOSED**CHECK ONE**☐ UNALTERED☒ ALTERED**CHECK ONE**☒ ORIGINAL SITE☐ MOVED

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

The Dickerson AME Church is located at 148 West Mechanic Street in Frostburg, Allegany County, on the southwest side of the street at the intersection of Pine Street.

The church consists of a one story, one bay wide, rectangular block. A front, Northeast face wing and a rear Southwest wing abut the main block for the purpose of an entrance and pulpit respectively. The church is a frame structure covered with novelty siding and is supported by a low cement block foundation with a plain water table. The roof of the facade is gabled with soffit and frieze, and is covered with replaced asphalt shingles. Windows in the church feature double hung, wooden sash frames which have been panelled to form lancet windows, with stained glass two-over-two lights. The main entrance is located on the front, Northeast, face of the structure and includes a transom with a framed wood fan above the double doors. One replaced metal chimney is found on the outside end of southeast side and the church shows no evidence of an earlier chimney.

The church is structurally sound but alterations have been made when remodeled in 1924 and again in 1956.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1881

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The African Methodist Episcopal Church was founded in 1845 by Christian, Black Protestants who lived in the Northwest portion of Frostburg. The original church was located on Ormand Street and was known as Hall's Chapel. In 1881 the present church was built on the current site for the cost of about \$800, and the lot was donated by Thomas Mitchell, Sr.

The church has been remodeled on several occasions, in 1924 and 1952 and again in 1956 when the structure was rededicated. The church and congregation is unique in that it was the first and only Negro minority group to form a religious meeting house in the town of Frostburg, and its good condition certainly enhances the cultural heritage of Frostburg.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Allegany County Land Records, Cumberland, Maryland

Frostburg Sesquicentennial Book; Dickerson, AME Church,  
Frostburg Sesquicentennial Committee, June 1962

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 20' x 46'

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

148 West Mechanic Street

Boundary Lines Southwest & Northeast 46'      Lines Southeast &  
Northwest 20'

**LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES**

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

John E. Nelson, Program Coordinator of All. Co. Historic Sites

ORGANIZATION

Allegany County Historic Sites Survey

DATE

5/21/76

STREET & NUMBER

10 Park Lane

TELEPHONE

689-8486

CITY OR TOWN

Frostburg

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

INVENTORY NO. A1-VII-A-031Liber 24  
Folio 58  
Oct 1865DATE: 5/17/76

Acreage 20'x46'

REMODELING: Drastic, moderate, minor Remodeled 1924NAME OF PROPERTY: African Methodist Episcopal ChurchLOCATION OF PROPERTY: 148 West Mechanic StDIRECTION DWELLING FACES: ~~Northwest~~ NortheastNAME OF OWNER: A.M.E. ChurchADDRESS: 148 West Mechanic St.Frostburg, MD 21532

STORIES: 1(✓) 2( ) 3( ) 4( ) 5( ) 6( ) BAYS: 1(✓) 2( ) 3( ) 4( ) 5( ) 6( ) 7( ) ( )

WINGS, ADDITIONS: 1 rear + 1 entrance WingsDwelling Shape: (square, cross, rectangular)

WALL CONSTRUCTION:

- (✓) FRAME: Bevel, clapboard, weatherboard, wood shingles, board & batten (type?)  
( ) BRICK: Bond type- common, English, Flemish. Sketch variants.  
( ) STONE: Bond type- rubble, ashlar (random or regular), quoins-plain, rusticated  
( ) LOG  
(✓) Other: Coverings Novelty Siding

WALL FEATURES: BELT COURSE, PILASTERS, OTHERS PlainFOUNDATIONS: HIGH, LOW, BRICK, STONE Cement BlockWATER TABLE: NONE, PLAIN, BEVELED, MOULDED BRICKWINDOWS, TRIM, SHUTTERS: 1/1( ) 2/2(✓) 6/6( ) 9/6( ) 9/9( ) other( ) Lancet + Stained  
Double Hung Wooden Sash pegged( ) nailed( ) wide( ) narrow( ) mitred( ) pediment( )  
Narrowed at top to lancetENTRANCE, DOORS: LOCATION: NortheastHARDWARE: original( ) replaced(✓)  
Wood FAN LIGHT, TRANSOM, SIDE LIGHTS, PLAIN  
Paneled, Verticle, Horizontal Boards double doorsCORNICE, BARGE, EAVES: (crown, fascia, soffit, bed)  
original(✓) replaced( ) Rafter Ends, Modillions, Dentils, Frieze,  
ArchitraveROOF: GABLE FRONT, GABLE FLANK, HIP, SHED, BANCARD, GAMBREL, FLAT, BOMERS #  
MATERIAL: wood shingles, slate, tin, asphalt original( ) replaced(✓)

PORCHES: SHAPE OF ROOF - shed( ) hip( ) gable(✓)

CHIMNEYS: NUMBER 1 BRICK( ) STONE( ) CORBELLED( ) original( ) replaced(✓) Metal  
LOCATION: Flush end( ) Inside end( ) Outside end(✓) Central( ) Interior( )ARCHES: Door and window: Keystone, Flat, Segmental, Semicircular

COMMENTS:

Use - Church  
Significance - Arch. Minority Religion  
Date Constructed - 1881  
Condition - Good  
1845-founded

Key points regarding interior architecture.

1. Floor plan

No through hall--How many rooms long and deep?  
Where is stairway? Straight or winding?

With through hall--Rooms on both sides? How many?

Rooms on one side only? How many?

Is stair in through hall?

Open or enclosed? Straight--one run. Straight--landing  
How many? Curved.

If not in hall, where is stair?

2. Wall finish: plaster, paneled, board partition  
Note presence of chair rail, cornice, etc.

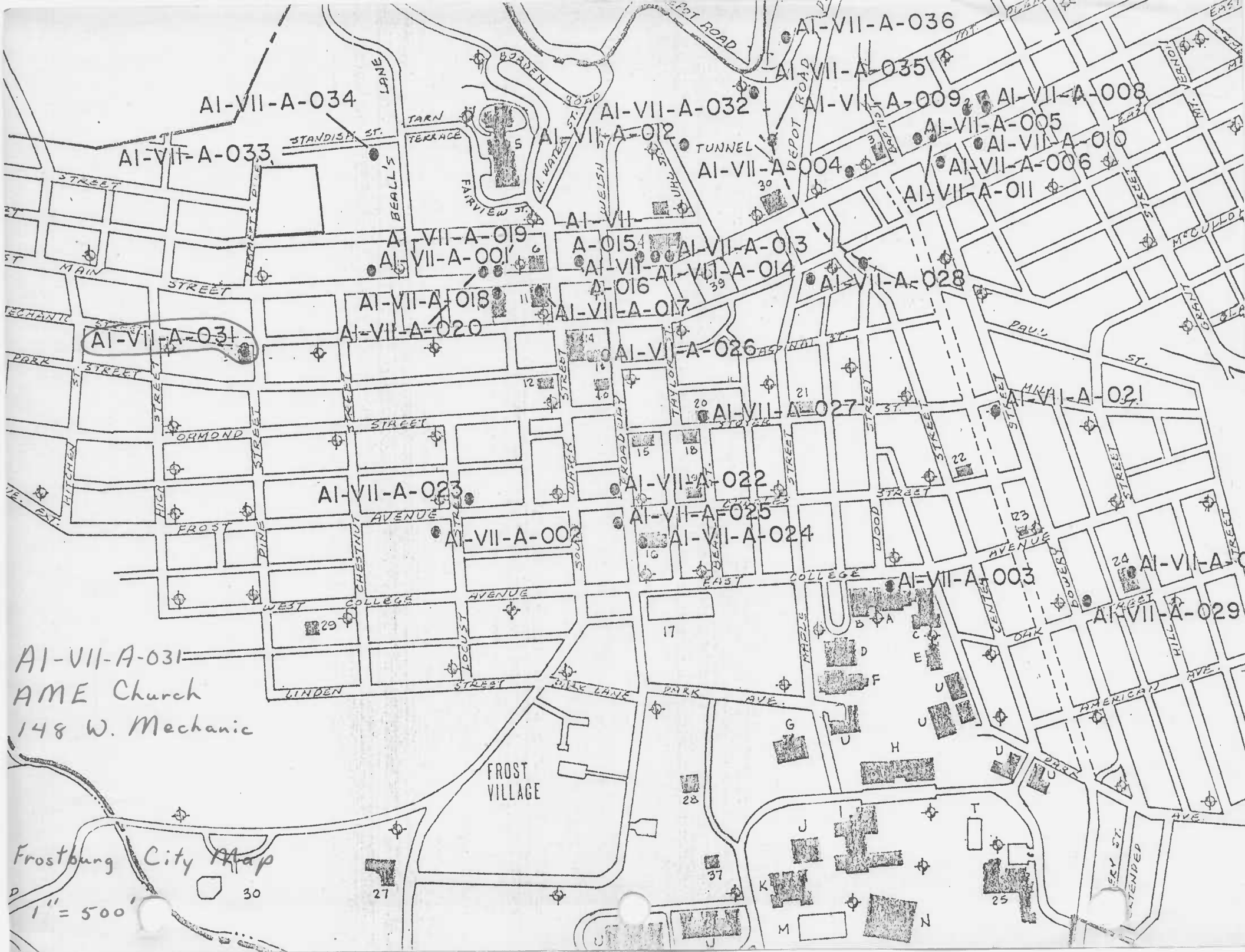
3. Fireplaces: How many? Parallel to walls or diagonal in corner?

Mantels: wood--mouldings, pilasters, columns  
masonry--marble(what color?), brick

3. Doors: on the inside of exterior doors, note the presence of applied flush boards and their direction (diagonal, vertical, horizontal). In general are doors paneled or ledge or other?

4. Door and window trim: plain, architrave; fluted, reeded; pilasters

5. Kitchen: Where is original if extant or known (marked by very large fireplace)? Separate building; wing to principal dwelling; within principal dwelling? On which floor of any of the above?



AI-VII-A-034

AI-VII-A-033

AI-VII-A-032

AI-VII-A-036

AI-VII-A-035

AI-VII-A-008

AI-VII-A-005

AI-VII-A-010

AI-VII-A-006

AI-VII-A-011

AI-VII-A-028

AI-VII-A-019

AI-VII-A-001

A-015

AI-VII-A-013

AI-VII-A-014

A-016

AI-VII-A-017

AI-VII-A-018

AI-VII-A-020

AI-VII-A-026

AI-VII-A-027

AI-VII-A-021

AI-VII-A-022

AI-VII-A-025

AI-VII-A-024

AI-VII-A-023

AI-VII-A-002

AI-VII-A-003

AI-VII-A-029

AI-VII-A-029

AI-VII-A-031  
AME Church  
148 W. Mechanic

Frostburg City Map

1" = 500'





AME Dickerson Church

A1- VII- A-031

148 West Mechanic St.

Frostburg

John E. Nelson

5/20/76

West



AL-VI-A-031

FIGURE 71.

AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

5/20/1976 - John Nelson



AME Dickerson Church

A1-VII-A-031

148 West Mechanic St.

Frostburg

John E. Nelson

5/20/76

East